of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation. A Comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Employment Generation in Khadi Industry

3497. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether more employment has been generated/created in the Khadi Industry since 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reasons, *inter-alia,* for marginal decline in employment under Khadi sector since 1997-98, are need for better designs, greater compatibility with consumer demand and improved marketing.

Non-Payment of Annual Working Capital to Khadi Institutions

3498. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not paid up its annual one third working capital pledged to Khadi Institutions all over the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to save the Khadi Industry from the massive lay off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government does not provide working